

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 264 628 A (13)  
(43) Date of A publication 08.09.1993

(21) Application No 9204832.1

(22) Date of filing 06.03.1992

(71) Applicant  
Flexico Company Limited  
(Incorporated in Hong Kong)

10/F Unit A Leroy Industrial Building,  
15 Cheung Shun Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon,  
Hong Kong

(72) Inventor  
Wah-Sang Hui

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service  
D Young & Co  
21 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1DA,  
United Kingdom

(51) INT CL<sup>5</sup>  
A44C 5/14

(52) UK CL (Edition L)  
A3H H31A

(56) Documents cited  
GB 2037570 A GB 1345949 A GB 0832960 A  
US 4564308 A US 4234115 A US 4149662 A  
US 3939534 A

(58) Field of search  
UK CL (Edition L) A3H H31A  
INT CL<sup>5</sup> A44C 5/14

(54) Connector for wrist watch and strap

(57) A strap is secured to a watch by a spring loaded catch (4) on the watch. The catch has a compression spring (4c) which allows retraction of a piston (4b) to release strap.

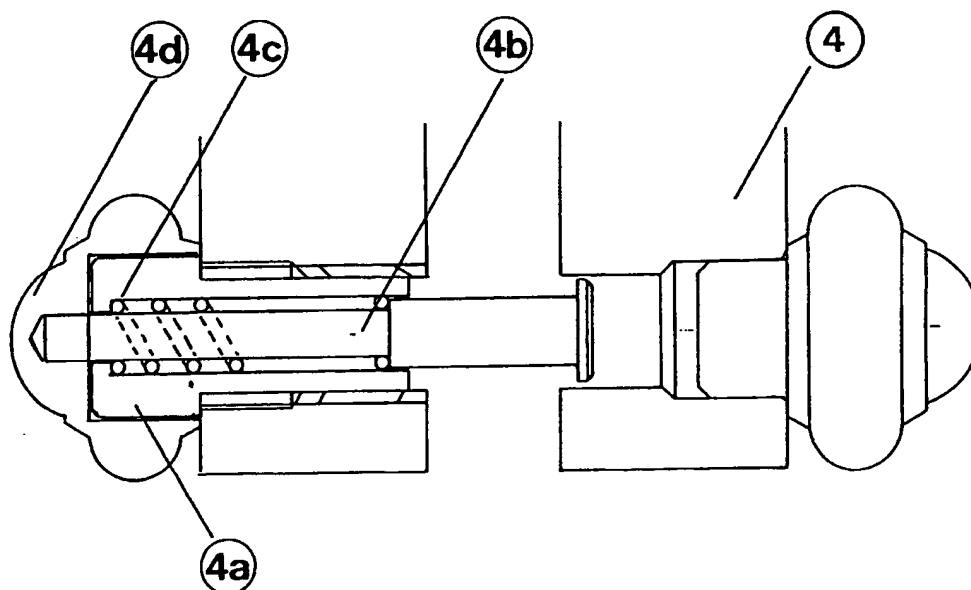


Fig. 5

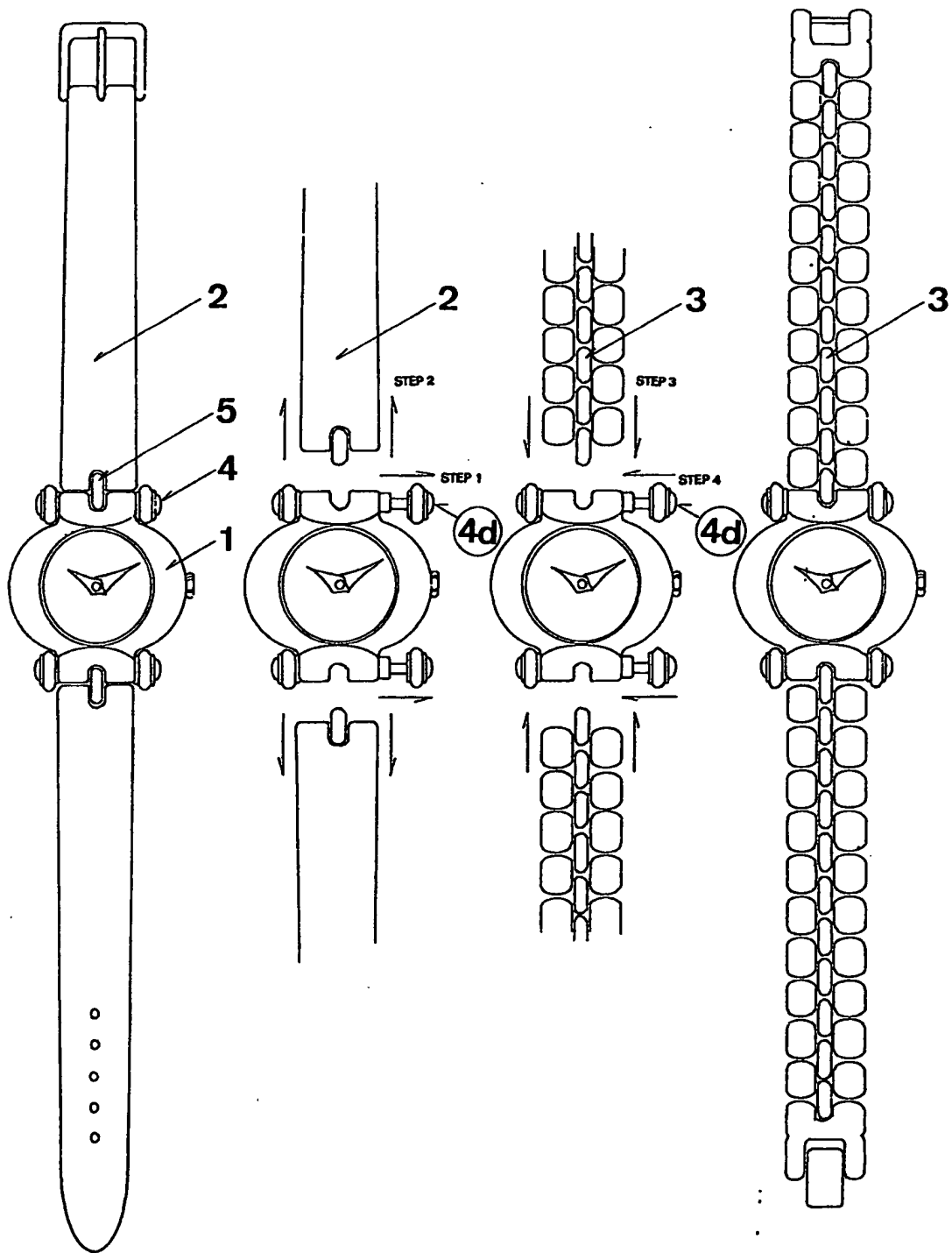
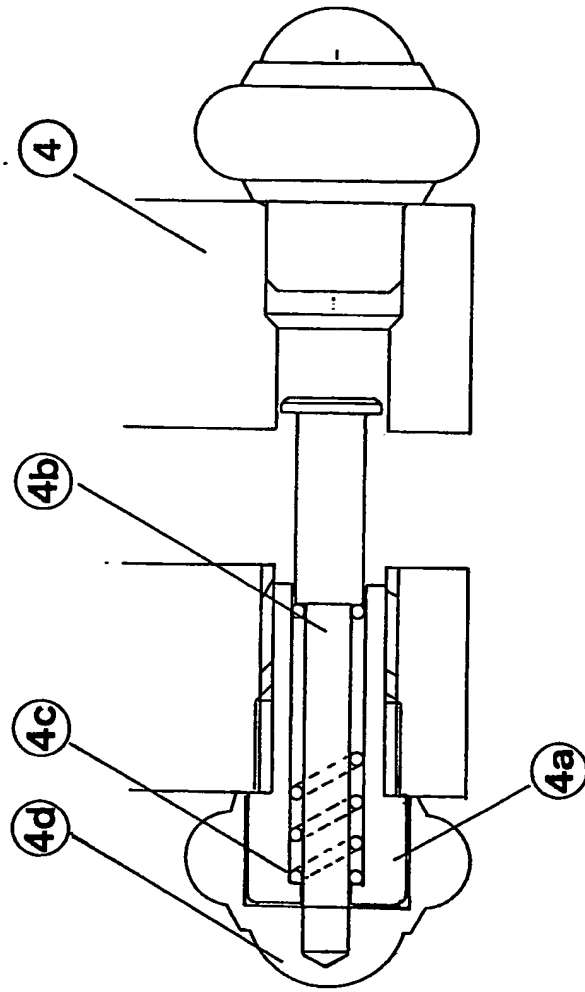


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4



WRIST WATCH AND WRIST WATCH STRAP

The present invention relates to wrist watches and to wrist watch straps. The term "strap" in this context includes all devices for holding a wrist watch in position on the wrist including not only straps made of leather or plastic but also metal bracelets, hereinafter for convenience all referred to as "straps".

Traditionally watch straps are secured to wrist watches in a manner such that it is difficult to remove the strap from the watch, for the purpose of changing the strap or repairing the watch. A hand tool or instrument is generally required to remove the strap from the watch and to secure the same or a different strap to the watch.

The invention provides a wrist watch and a wrist watch strap combination including a securing mechanism for securing the wrist watch strap to the wrist watch, the securing mechanism being manually operable so that the wrist watch and wrist watch strap can be secured to one another or released from one another without the use of any instrument.

In a preferred construction in accordance with the invention the securing mechanism for attaching one end of the strap to the wrist watch comprises a link or eye on the

strap which may be interlinked with a link or eye on the wrist watch, one of the links including a spring loaded catch to allow interlinkage.

The invention allows the user to easily remove or change a wrist watch strap as and when required, for reasons of fashion, to facilitate repairing the wrist watch, or because a strap has become worn out.

The invention will now be described more particularly with reference to the accompanying drawings which show, by way of example, a wrist watch provided with a pair of links each having a spring loaded catch in use in combination with two different wrist watch straps each provided with closed links at the ends thereof.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows a wrist watch and leather strap combination;

Figure 2 shows the removal of the leather strap from the wrist watch;

Figure 3 shows the attachment of a metal bracelet to the wrist watch;

Figure 4 shows the wrist watch and metal bracelet combination; and

Figure 5 is a sectional elevation of a spring loaded catch.

Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 show a wrist watch 1, a leather strap 2, and a metal bracelet 3. The wrist watch 1 includes links 4 for cooperating with links 5 on the leather strap 2 or metal bracelet 3.

Figure 5 shows a link 4 in more detail. The link 4 includes a fixed cylinder 4a, a piston 4b moveable along cylinder 4a, a compression coil spring 4c located within the cylinder 4a and a handle 4d for use in retracting the piston 4b into the cylinder 4a against the action of the spring 4c so as to thereby open the link.

Referring back to figures 1, 2, 3 and 4, Figure 1 shows the wrist watch 1 and leather strap 2 connected together. In Figure 2 the handles 4d have been manually retracted and the leather strap 2 has been disconnected from the wrist watch 1. In Figure 3 the handles 4d are still retracted and metal bracelet 3 is about to be secured to the wrist watch 1. In Figure 4 the metal bracelet 3 is shown attached to the wrist watch 1.

From a consideration of Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 it will be seen that the preferred construction is simple to operate, and is also aesthetically pleasing, and does not greatly add to the size or weight of the watch, so that the watch is comfortable for the wearer.

C L A I M S

1. A wrist watch and wrist watch strap combination including a securing mechanism for securing the wrist watch strap to the wrist watch, the securing mechanism being manually operable so that the wrist watch and wrist watch strap can be secured to one another or released from one another without the use of any instrument.
2. A wrist watch and wrist watch strap combination according to Claim 1 in which the securing mechanism for attaching one end of the strap to the wrist watch comprises a link or eye on the strap which may be interlinked with a link or eye on the wrist watch, one of the links including a spring loaded catch to allow interlinkage.
3. A wrist watch and wrist watch strap combination substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.
4. Any novel combination or sub-combination disclosed and/or illustrated herein.



**Patents Act 1977**  
**Examiner's report to the Comptroller under**  
**Section 17 (The Search Report)**

-6-

Application number

GB 9204832.1

**Relevant Technical fields**

(i) UK Cl (Edition L ) A3H; H31A

(ii) Int Cl (Edition 5 ) A44C 5/14

**Databases (see over)**

(i) UK Patent Office

(ii)

Search Examiner

MISS D DAVIES

Date of Search

21 APRIL 1993

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims 1-3

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2037570 A (TIMEX CORP) manually releasable strap with lugs (16) movable by member (18) biased against spring (23)	1-3
X	GB 1345949 A (TIMEX CORP) pins (17,18) compress resilient material (16) to release strap from watch	1-3
X	GB 0832960 A (THE GEMEX CORP) finger-piece (36) operates spring-loaded catch on strap	1-3
X	US 4564308 A (I-KEGAMI et al) spring-loaded rod for strap	1-3
X	US 4234115 A (B D WILLIAMS) see figure 4 spring-loaded release mechanism on strap	1-3
X	US 4149662 A (R RAMACIERE) spring-loaded release mechanism on strap	1-3
X	US 3939534 spring-release mechanism operated by finger-lug	1-3

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

### Categories of documents

**X:** Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

**Y:** Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

**A:** Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

**P:** Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

**E:** Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

**&:** Member of the same patent family, corresponding document.

**Databases:** The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).